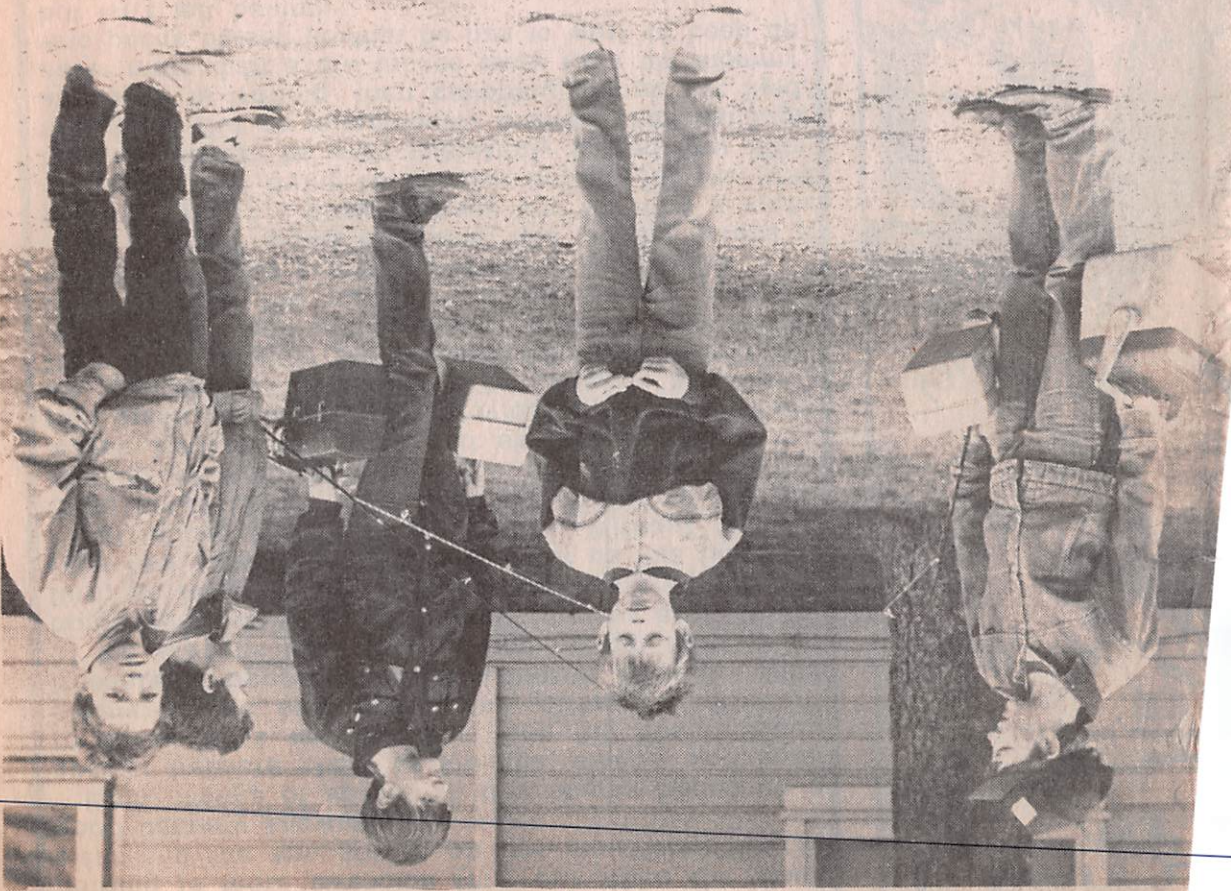


# Sure Sign of Spring

A sure sign of spring in Heber Valley is a group of young boys loading up their fishing gear for a quick trip to the nearest stream to see what might be caught. We don't know about their fishing luck, but we're sure it was worth the trip.

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nothing is more awesome than our when the skies clear and the sun shines on our mountains after a good January snowfall.

Each change of season in this county opens up a special treasure chest of feelings, smells, activities, to savor for a few months. Then the chest closes slowly as the next one opens, offering a different treasure of opportunities to rummage through. None of the seasons lasts long enough to get used to or bored with, so when it's about time for each to return, we remember its pleasures and can't wait to see what new experiences are waiting for us this time.

But, above all, we *need* Spring. Without Spring, there could be no other seasons. Spring is the beginning of nature's cycle. It's the time when the leaves bud on the trees and shrubs, becoming the rich green of summer that provides the restful shade we can snooze under on a hot August afternoon; then they produce the brilliant, glorious, breathtaking yellows, reds and golds of Autumn; and finally they become the natural fertilizer under winter's blanket that gets everything ready to start over.

We *need* the sights of spring, like looking across a pasture next to a busy highway and spotting a spindle-legged foal trying to balance upright for the first time, as though he were mistakenly issued four illfitting stilts. But he miraculously masters the challenge and soon is trotting, then galloping across the field, never more than a few inches away from his mommy, who paces herself so that he has to work to keep up, but isn't left behind.

We need the early Spring sight of tulip and crocus leaves poking up through the soil before the snow is quite gone. We need to check them regularly so we don't miss the first little flower face that peeks around to make sure everything's okay before signaling the others that it's time for everybody to come out in full, colorful bloom.

